

# McJUSTICE

## MARICOPA COUNTY JUSTICE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

McJustice is a consortium of the major law enforcement and justice agencies in Maricopa County, Arizona (greater Phoenix area). McJustice Partners are dedicated to exploring problems and issues in the criminal justice system and collaborating on solutions from a system point-of-view. It has been in existence for ten years and meets monthly. Questions about meetings, minutes, and agenda items should be addressed to the committee staff: Sarah Shew, Superior Court Administration, 201 West Jefferson, Central Court Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85003. Phone: (602) 506-7877; Fax: (602) 506-7867.

### Issue No. 11 Meeting of February 28, 2000

#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

**Michael Jeanes**, Clerk of Court, noted that a Bill which would re-route a portion of the restitution collected for unlocatable victims to the Victim Compensation Fund, has passed the House and is now in the Senate.

#### MEDICAL CLEARANCE, CON-TENTS

**Trina Lambert**, Justice System Coordinator, briefed attendees with regard to a settlement agreement between the County and the Department of Justice that calls for a medical certification prior to housing inmates on work release and work furlough programs at the Sheriff's Con-Tents Facility. Addressing concerns about the proposed process:

- Sheriff's Office representatives have proposed limiting the medically-certified inmate population to only those sentenced to 15 or more days, which has been agreed to by the Department of Justice, effectively reducing the numbers of affected inmates from an estimated 188 a week to 16 a week;
- Negotiations are underway with the Department of Public Health to provide examinations for those inmates who do not have their own doctor, at a cost to be passed along to the inmate;
- Inmates eligible for work release/furlough not found medically fit for tents will be accepted into climate controlled housing and allowed to participate in court-ordered release programs.

Issues remain with regard to the proposed cost of Public Health examinations and how that cost will be paid by indigent inmates; potential abuses of requests for climate-controlled housing; and accuracy of the estimates of the affected

population. (Subsequently, all potential problems have been resolved).

A meeting is scheduled before the Board of Supervisors for March 15. If approved, it is anticipated that beginning April 3<sup>rd</sup>, persons sentenced to 15 days or more work furlough or work release will have been given a medical clearance form and the process begun. No change on existing confinement orders is required; a separate instruction form will be provided. Assuming Board approval is granted, an administrative order will be issued by Judge Myers as well. The committee working on this issue will meet again in May to review progress.

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTEGRATION INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**Michael Jeanes**, Clerk of Court and Chair of the Executive Committee of the **Integrated Criminal Justice Information System for Maricopa County**, reported on progress to date:

- **John Doktor** has been hired as Director of Information Technology and is scheduled to begin March 6;
- Work has begun with the Office of Management and Budget on a proposed budget for the project;
- A preliminary project plan is in draft form and is expected to be distributed shortly.

Funding for this project comes from the jail tax approved by the voters in November 1998.

#### MENTAL HEALTH SMI ISSUES

**Jeff Trollinger** and **Mark Stodola** of Adult Probation briefed McJustice participants on their

Transitional Living Center. Some 80% of the seriously mentally ill in the Adult Probation population suffer from co-occurring disorders. Recently a change has been proposed in the eligibility requirements of this population, which would force Value Options to manage treatment for dually diagnosed probationers for up to 90 days. If later found to be cognitively impaired, they would be placed on Value Option's roles.

Currently eleven probationers at the Transitional Living Center are being evaluated by Value Options; Value Options has agreed to fund the Center through the end of the fiscal year

## **6<sup>TH</sup> CRIMINAL JUDGE AT SE**

**Judges Dan Barker** and **Roger Kaufman** addressed growing criminal caseloads and space issues at Southeast, and attempts to provide relief. Current plans call for the addition of a sixth criminal judge and an addition of a half commissioner, for a total of two criminal commissioners. Details are still being worked out, but the intent is to enable morning trial starts through court calendar shifts. Judge Kaufman noted that caseloads at Southeast are 1220 compared to 1000 downtown, with an increasing backlog. Judge Kaufman is anxious that Early Disposition Court expand to include Southeast cases at the earliest opportunity.

## **H.B.2079 -- RETIREMENT**

**Gordon Griller**, Court Administrator, distributed a copy of H.B.2079, proposed legislation affecting members of the state retirement system. Currently before a Senate Committee, this Bill is seen by **Bob Briney**, Legal Defender, as creating an incentive for senior attorneys to stay in the county system at least until they have 25 years in the retirement plan. He urges support of the Bill, noting that **Senator Ed Cerrillo** is the committee chair and historian of this type of Bill. It was noted that Senator Cerrillo is not opposed to the concept but that he is concerned about the "numbers."

## **TOUR**

Following adjournment, McJustice participants were invited to tour the **Phoenix Municipal Court** building at 300 W. Washington.

**NEXT MEETING: March 27 at 1:45, Judges Dining Room, 101 W. Washington.**